

Early Childhood Advisory Council Meeting Minutes

June 20, 2013

Call to Order

The meeting of the Early Childhood Advisory Council was called to order at 12:30pm on June 20, 2013 at Metro United Way in Louisville, Kentucky.

Roll Call

The following members were present: Mike Hammons for Randy Coe, Marilyn Coffey, Paula Goff, Tracy Haddix, Beth Jurek for Audrey Haynes, Amy Hood Hooten, Chair Rick Hulefeld, Marybeth Jackson, LaQuandra Nesbitt, Brigitte Blom Ramsey, Joe Roberts, Nicki Patton Rowe, Anna Shepherd, and Sandy Fawbush for Ruth Ann Shepherd. The following members were not present: Tom Buford, Tom Burch, Jane Chandler, Ben Cundiff, Tommy Floyd, Cindy Heine, Terry Holliday, Joseph Meyer, Aubrey Nehring, Bill Scott and June Widman.

Welcome

Joe Tolan welcomed the Early Childhood Advisory Council to the Metro United Way and explained a brief history of the building.

Approval of the March 2013 Minutes

On recommendation of Chair Rick Hulefeld, the minutes of the March 2013 meeting were amended as follows: change the wording in the Executive Director's report from "the office has produced a new logo and a new school readiness definition" to "the office has produced a new logo and a redesigned school readiness definition." All members present were in favor of approving the March 2013 meeting minutes as amended.

Report and Recommendations for CECCs

Marilyn Coffey, co-chair of the Community Collaboration work group, prefaced a presentation by Amanda Flanary on the recommendations for funding for the CECC grant applications. The Community Collaboration work group met with several CECCs to ensure the group had a good idea of what characteristics make a successful council. This year, the Governor's Office of Early Childhood (GOEC) provided councils with the Early Childhood Profile, several templates and numerous webinars about technical assistance. The GOEC wanted to ensure that councils were prepared to be successful. This year, the GOEC received 74 total applications covering a total of 111 counties. Only 9 were not represented by a council, up from 16 in FY2013. The GOEC also received confirmation from two councils that could not apply for funding in time, but planned to continue their work without funding for FY14; these two councils cover 6 counties. More great news for CECCs this year is that the activity focus shifted from environment to family engagement. The GOEC has been encouraging the CECCs to move toward more family engagement activities, because we know that parents are a child's first and best teacher, but we also now know that over 50% of Kentucky children are not in organized settings. The CECCs scored higher this year, on average, than FY2013 and the funding model is similar to FY2013, with three separate Tiers of scoring. Tier 1 includes CECCs that scored 85 and above and had no missing application components. Tier 2 includes CECCs that scored 85 and above but had a material component missing. Tier 3 includes CECCs that scored below an 85 and/or had major missing components. This year, the GOEC is able to fund all of the CECCs at their full requested amount, but in various stages. Tier 1 councils will be fully funded. Tier 2 councils

will be fully funded after they send in their missing component(s). Tier 3 councils will be invited to resubmit their application and be provided with technical assistance. The GOEC and the Community Collaboration work group recommended this particular tiered funding model to ensure that while the GOEC is able to fully fund all applications at their requested amount, that Kentucky is only supporting high quality, strategic applications. On motion of Brigitte Blom Ramsey, second by Beth Jurek, the funding recommendation for Community Early Childhood Councils of \$1.5 Million was approved, with abstention due to conflict of interest from Marilyn Coffey, Amy Hood Hooten and Nicki Patton Rowe.

Continuous Assessment Guide

Amy Hood Hooten, chair of the Assessment Work Group, reported that the work group had completed the tedious task of revising and updating the Continuous Assessment Guide (CAG) document to improve the language to make it easier to understand and more user-friendly, to update the info and to make it applicable to all early childhood fields including child care, Head Start and public preschool. She was happy to report that the work group was able to ensure that the research included in the CAG document is up to date, that the document is reflective of the work in early childhood in Kentucky and the new information about the Kindergarten entry screener. Upon suggestion of Marilyn Coffey, the following changes will be made to the CAG: approval date should be added to the first page, additional resources on the last page should include GOEC and throughout the document the phrase “approaches toward learning” should be change to “approaches to learning” to be reflective of the language used in the Kindergarten readiness definition. Upon motion of Tracy Haddix, second by Beth Jurek, the Continuous Assessment Guide was approved with suggested changes.

CCAP Update

Beth Jurek reported on the changes to the Child Care Assistance Program fund. There have been many cuts to CHFS funding over the years. CCAP dollars have traditionally relied heavily on extra TANF dollars. This is a strategy that many other states use and it worked for several years, however when the economy did not bounce back from the recession as was expected, the CCAP dollars could not be restored. The Department of Community Based Services has one of the most complicated budgets in state government because it relies on so many different kinds of funding streams, some of which are federal and come with very strict restrictions. The freeze on intake of new CCAP applications did go into place on April 1. While there are no sure numbers yet, CHFS believes this step alone could garner over \$7 million in savings. On July 1, the financial requirement for CCAP renewal will be lowered from 150% FPL to 100%FPL. Applicants will cycle off throughout the next year, as their applications come up for recertification. Once CHFS has saved enough to support 28,000 children with CCAP dollars, they plan to take the freeze off of new applications. However, the cabinet will be unable to change the financial requirement back to 150% FPL.

Workgroup Updates

Brigitte Blom Ramsey reported on the Data and Program Investment work groups. The Data work group will soon hear feedback from the GOEC about the Data profile for FY14, because the original profile needed so much space for the FY13 pilot, that some changes will need to be made. The Program Investment work group recently made recommendations about an extra \$2.1 million in Tobacco funding. This work group is also working with community and government stakeholders in the coming weeks to ensure that resources are being shared in a way that effectively offers high quality early childhood education services.

Courtney Daniel reported on the Community Engagement work group, in the absence of work group chair Cindy Heine, which has met several times since the last ECAC meeting to effectively create objectives that include: speaking with one voice, offering resources, encouraging partners to share messaging and utilizing the CECCs to share messaging. The work group has also worked on their audience, messaging and strengthening the pathways of communication, along with creating a social media campaign that will include various stakeholders. The monthly message is a major accomplishment of this work group, that enables the GOEC to communicate directly with parents now about important early childhood topics, and advocates in the future. Courtney, in her new position as Community and Family Engagement Coordinator, as also created logos and templates for the CECCs so that the GOEC branding can be stronger throughout the Commonwealth.

Tracy Haddix reported on the STARS workgroup. Terry Tolan and Tracy have been asked to co-facilitate a national QRIS learning table in DC. The work group has been working hard to draft a new STARS QRIS, that will include a tiered block and point system. The work group is strongly modeling their work after the new Ohio QRIS system but is still in the early stages of development and decision-making.

Nicki Patton Rowe reported on the Professional Development workgroup. The PD workgroup has recently moved to having various workgroups, to ensure that they can cover the multitude of work that exists within professional development goals.

Executive Director's Report

Terry Tolan reported on the following exciting things that are coming out of the work of the GOEC. Terry presented with Brigitte Blom Ramsey at Smart Start in May on the data profile and kindergarten screener. Terry also presented at NAEYC about placing the CDA into the PD system in Kentucky, through the Family and Consumer Sciences program. Terry ensured that the ECAC knew of Secretary Joe Meyer's retirement, and his replacement, Tom Zawacki. Terry highlighted U.S. Secretary of Education Arne Duncan's visit to Louisville on June 20. The report to Tobacco Oversight and the Bi-Annual report are due soon, both of which will highlight the very productive last two years of the GOEC. There will be several ECAC members that are cycling out of their term and reappointments, meaning there could be several new members at the September meeting. Bill Scott is retiring from his position at Kentucky School Boards Association. The Race to the Top documents are available for review and the GOEC had already reviewed them and the office is already working on revisions; this year, the GOEC will not hire a consultant. The GOEC has had the opportunity to be a part of the newest early childhood initiative in Kentucky, which is Strengthening Families. An interagency group of both public and private stakeholders will be working on this project. Terry thanked Rick Hulefeld and Children, Inc for hosting lunch for the ECAC members and staff.

Conclusion

Rick Hulefeld closed the meeting by reminded the ECAC that in September there will probably be a rough draft of the Race to the Top application, along with a more formal Big Asks framework for Governor Beshear to approve. There will also be several very important committee reports. Please note the meeting pattern of the Early Childhood Advisory Council is now every three months on the third Thursday. The next meeting will be held Thursday, September 19, 2013. Location to be announced. The meeting was adjourned at 2:21pm.